

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 is canceled by this amendment.

Applicant notes that a certified copy of the priority document is submitted concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner indicate in the next Office paper that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-14 are allowed.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, Applicants have rewritten claims 2-4 in independent form, thereby placing these claims in immediate condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuo (JP 10-242442) or Hasegawa (JP 08-065579). As noted above, claim 1 has been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

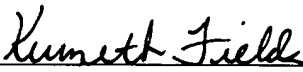
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an indication of such is hereby requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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